AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A sustained release drug device adapted for implantation in or adjacent to the eye of a patient, the drug delivery device comprising:

(i) an inner drug core comprising a carbonic anhydrase inhibitor and a matrix material wherein said carbonic anhydrase inhibitor is admixed in the matrix material to inhibit or prevent decomposition of the carbonic anhydrase inhibitor;

(ii) a first coating on the surface of the drug core, that is substantially impermeable to the passage of the carbonic anhydrase inhibitor, having one or more openings therein which permit diffusion of the carbonic anhydrase inhibitor, and which is substantially insoluble and inert in body fluids and compatible with body tissues; and

(iii) one or more additional coatings that are permeable to the passage of the carbonic anhydrase inhibitor, are substantially insoluble and inert in body fluids and compatible with body tissues and comprise a carbonic anhydrase inhibitor that is the same or different as the carbonic anhydrase inhibitor of the inner drug core;

wherein the first and additional coatings are disposed about the inner drug core so as to produce, when implanted, a substantially constant rate of release of the carbonic anhydrase inhibitor from the device; and

the first coating is stable during the release period.

2. (Currently Amended) A sustained release drug device adapted for implantation in or adjacent to the eye of a patient, the drug delivery device comprising:

(i) an inner drug core comprising a carbonic anhydrase inhibitor and a matrix material wherein said carbonic anhydrase inhibitor is admixed in the matrix material to inhibit or prevent decomposition of the carbonic anhydrase inhibitor;

(ii) a first coating on the surface of the drug core, that is substantially impermeable to the passage of the carbonic anhydrase inhibitor, having one or more openings therein which permit diffusion of the carbonic anhydrase inhibitor, and which is substantially insoluble and inert in body fluids and compatible with body tissues; and

(iii) one or more additional coatings that are permeable to the passage of the carbonic anhydrase inhibitor, are substantially insoluble and inert in body fluids and compatible with body tissues and comprise a carbonic anhydrase inhibitor that is the same or different as the carbonic anhydrase inhibitor of the inner drug core;

wherein the impermeable coating has sufficient dimensional stability to be filled with a carbonic anhydrase inhibitor core without changing its shape; and

the first coating is stable during the release period.

3. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein the impermeable coating has sufficient dimensional stability to be filled with a carbonic anhydrase inhibitor core without changing its shape.

4. (Withdrawn) A method for administering a carbonic anhydrase inhibitor to the ciliary body of an eye, the method comprising implanting a sustained-release device in or adjacent to the eye, whereby the device delivers the carbonic anhydrase inhibitor to the ciliary body of the eye, wherein the carbonic anhydrase inhibitor concentration in the ciliary body is maintained at a therapeutically effective concentration for a period of at least 30 days.

5. (Withdrawn) A method for administering a carbonic anhydrase inhibitor to the ciliary body of an eye, the method comprising implanting a sustained-release device according to any one of claims 1-3 or claim 14 in or adjacent to the eye, whereby the device delivers the carbonic anhydrase inhibitor to the ciliary body of the eye, wherein the carbonic anhydrase inhibitor concentration in the ciliary body is maintained at a therapeutically effective concentration for a period of at least 30 days.

6. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 4, wherein the carbonic anhydrase inhibitor concentration in the ciliary body is maintained at a therapeutically effective concentration for a period of at least 180 days.

7. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 5, wherein the carbonic anhydrase inhibitor concentration in the ciliary body is maintained at a therapeutically effective concentration for a period of at least 180 days.

8. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 4, wherein the carbonic anhydrase inhibitor concentration in the ciliary body is maintained at a therapeutically effective concentration for a period of at least 360 days.

9. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 5, wherein the carbonic anhydrase inhibitor concentration in the ciliary body is maintained at a therapeutically effective concentration for a period of at least 360 days.

10. (Previously Presented) The device according to any one of claims 1-3, wherein the carbonic anhydrase inhibitor is selected from acetazolamide, methazolamide, ethoxzolamide, dichlorphenamide, dorzolamide, and brinzolamide.

11. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 5, wherein the carbonic anhydrase inhibitor is selected from acetazolamide, methazolamide, ethoxzolamide, dichlorphenamide, dorzolamide, and brinzolamide.

12. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 7, wherein the carbonic anhydrase inhibitor is selected from acetazolamide, methazolamide, ethoxzolamide, dichlorphenamide, dorzolamide, and brinzolamide.

13. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 9, wherein the carbonic anhydrase inhibitor is selected from acetazolamide, methazolamide, ethoxzolamide, dichlorphenamide, dorzolamide, and brinzolamide.

14. (Currently Amended) A sustained release drug delivery device adapted for insertion in or adjacent to the eye of a patient, the drug delivery device comprising:

(i) an inner drug core comprising at least one carbonic anhydrase inhibitor and a matrix material wherein said carbonic anhydrase inhibitor is admixed in the matrix material to inhibit or prevent decomposition of the carbonic anhydrase inhibitor;

(ii) a coating layer on the surface of the drug core that is partially or substantially impermeable to the passage of the at least one carbonic anhydrase inhibitor, having one or more openings therein which permit diffusion of the carbonic anhydrase inhibitor, and that is substantially insoluble and inert in body fluids and compatible with body tissues; and comprises a carbonic anhydrase inhibitor that is the same or different as the carbonic anhydrase inhibitor of the inner drug core;

wherein the coating is disposed about the inner drug core so as to produce, when inserted a substantially constant rate of release of the carbonic anhydrase inhibitor from the device; and the coating layer is stable during the release period.

15-16. (Cancelled)

17. (Original) The sustained release drug delivery device of claim 14, wherein the device is formed by co-extruding the inner drug core and the coating layer.

18. (Currently Amended) A sustained release drug delivery device adapted for insertion in or adjacent to the eye of a patient, the drug delivery device comprising:

(i) an inner drug core comprising at least one carbonic anhydrase inhibitor and a matrix material wherein said carbonic anhydrase inhibitor is admixed in the matrix material to inhibit or prevent decomposition of the carbonic anhydrase inhibitor;

(ii) a coating layer on the surface of the drug core that is partially or substantially permeable to the passage of the at least one carbonic anhydrase inhibitor, having one or more openings therein which aid diffusion of the at least one carbonic anhydrase inhibitor, and that is substantially insoluble and inert in body fluids and compatible with body tissues; and comprises a carbonic anhydrase inhibitor that is the same or different as the carbonic anhydrase inhibitor of the inner drug core;

and wherein the coating is disposed about the inner drug core so as to produce, when inserted, a substantially constant rate of release of the at least one carbonic anhydrase inhibitor from the device; and

the coating layer is stable during the release period.

19-20. (Cancelled)

21. (Currently Amended) The sustained release drug delivery device of claim ~~20~~18, wherein the device is formed by co-extruding the inner drug core and the coating layer.